

Regular Expression Syntax

Expression	Description	Examples and Expansions
Single character expressions		
.	any single character	spi.e matches "spice", "spike", etc.
\char	for a nonalphanumeric <i>char</i> , matches <i>char</i> literally	* matches "*"
\n	newline character	
\r	carriage return character	
\t	tab character	
[...]	any single character listed in the brackets	[abc] matches "a", "b", or "c"
[...-...]	any single character in the range	[0-9] matches "0" or "1" ... or "9"
[^...]	any single character not listed	[^sS] matches one character that is neither "s" nor "S"
[^...-...]	any single character not in the range	[^A-Z] matches one character that is not an uppercase letter
Anchors/Expressions which match positions		
^	beginning of line	
\$	end of line	
\b	word boundary	nt\b matches "nt" in "paint" but not in "pants"
\B	word non-boundary	all\B matches "all" in "ally" but not in "wall"
Counters/Expressions which quantify previous expressions		
*	zero or more of previous r.e.	a* matches "", "a", "aa", "aaa", ...
+	one or more of previous r.e.	a+ matches "a", "aa", "aaa", ...
?	exactly one or zero of previous r.e.	colou?r matches "color" or "colour"
{n}	<i>n</i> of previous r.e.	a{4} matches "aaaa"
{n,m}	from <i>n</i> to <i>m</i> of previous r.e.	
{n,}	at least <i>n</i> of previous r.e.	
.*	any string of characters	
(...)	grouping for precedence and memory for backreference	
... ...	matches either of neighbor r.e.s	(dog) (cat) matches "dog" or "cat"
Shortcuts		
\d	any digit	[0-9]
\D	any non-digit	[^0-9]
\w	any alphanumeric/underscore	[a-zA-Z0-9_]
\W	any non-alphanumeric	[^a-zA-Z0-9_]
\s	whitespace (space, tab)	[\r\t\n\f]
\S	non-whitespace	[^\r\t\n\f]